

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 13-69 are now pending in the present application. In this Reply, Applicants have amended claims 5-7, 36, 37, 41, 52, 55, 56, 59, and 60; have cancelled claims 9-12 without prejudice or disclaimer; and have added new claims 64-69. Additionally, Applicants have made a minor amendment to the specification.

Election Requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the application contains claims directed to the following patently distinct species:

- I.: An image display device as represented by claims 1-49 and 59-63;
- II.: A luminous element represented by claims 50 and 52-56;
- III.: A luminous element represented by claim 51; and
- IV.: An image display apparatus represented by claims 57-58.

In reply to the Examiner's indication that Applicants must elect one of species I-IV, Applicants hereby elect species I. Claims 1-8, 13-49, and 59-69 read on species I.

In addition to the division of claims into species I-IV, the Examiner indicates that species I includes three overlapping categories of species, which each include sub-species. More specifically, the Examiner indicates that species I can be divided/subdivided as follows:

Category I1, relating to the type of switching arrangement and including the following sub-species:

I1a - LCD; and

I1b - micromirror.

Category I2, representing the type of light source and including the following sub-species:

- I2a - lasers;
- I2b - EL devices;
- I2c - LED devices;
- I2d - incandescent devices; and
- I2e - superirradiation devices.¹

Category I3, relating to the type of display system utilizing the claimed display apparatus and including the following sub-species:

- I3a - direct view; and
- I3b - projection display type.

In reply to the Examiner's indication that Applicants must elect one sub-species in each category, Applicants hereby elect sub-species I1b (from category I1); sub-species I2c (from category I2); and sub-species I3b (from category I3). Applicants submit that claims 1-8, 13-49, 59-63, and 65-69 are readable on sub-species I1b; claims 21-24, 26-30, 32-35, 66-69, 64/66, 65/66, 64/68, 65/68, 64/69, and 65/69 are readable on sub-species I2c; and claims 1-8, 13-23, 25-29, 31-49, and 59-69 are readable on species I3b.

Accordingly, at least the overlapping claims, i.e., claims 21-23, 26-29, 32-35, 66-69, 65/66, 65/68, and 65/69 are entitled to examination based on the above election. Furthermore, any other claims depending from one of the above-listed overlapping claims should be entitled to rejoinder upon allowance.

¹ Applicants note that EL and LED devices are actually described in the specification as types of superirradiation devices.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

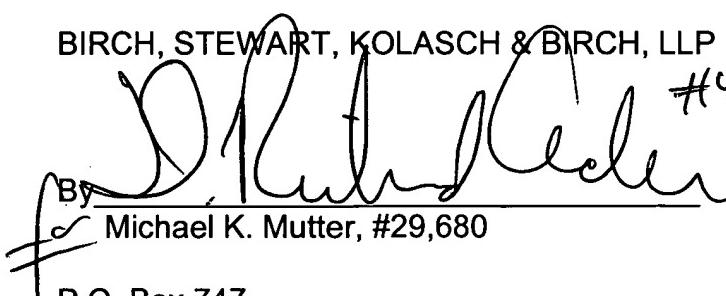
Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a). A check in the amount of \$110.00 in payment of the extension of time fee is attached.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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MKM/DRA/jdm
2565-0187P

Attachment: Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 64, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Combinations made by combining ones in the above has been described in the Embodiments 1 through 11 [10]. Of course, other combinations in addition to the above Embodiments are also acceptable. Besides, it is supposed that all the combinations having possibility in the theory have been disclosed in this specification in addition to the above Embodiments, though they are not shown in the drawings or not explained. As it is impossible to show drawings for all the combinations or to explain for all the combinations, only preferable embodiments have been described. The invention of the present application indicates not only the combinations drawn in the figures or having been explained but also the combinations not drawn or not explained.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 9-12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

The claims have been amended as follows:

5. (Twice Amended) The image display apparatus of claim 1 or 3, wherein each of the two-dimensionally arrayed plural semiconductor lasers is one of a semiconductor laser outputting a multi-mode laser beam and a semiconductor laser outputting a laser beam of wide spectrum.

6. (Twice Amended) The image display apparatus of claim 1 or 3, wherein the luminous device includes arrayed integrated semiconductor lasers.

7. (Twice Amended) The image display apparatus of claim 1 or 3, wherein the luminous device includes a surface-emitting semiconductor laser.

36. (Twice Amended) The image display apparatus of claim 34 or 35, wherein the luminous device is composed of a plurality of luminous devices in which a plurality of semiconductor lasers outputting same wavelength beams is arrayed, and each of the plurality of luminous devices operates in time-sharing in order to output a beam in time-sharing.

37. (Twice Amended) The image display apparatus of claim 34 or 35, wherein the luminous device is composed of arrayed semiconductor laser groups, each of which is made of semiconductor lasers of plural kinds outputting different wavelength beams.

41. (Twice Amended) The image display apparatus of claim 1, 34 or 35, further comprising a beam- conversion optical system for making a luminance distribution of beams output from the luminous device to be uniform.

52. (Twice Amended) The luminous element of claim 50 or 51, wherein the luminous element is arranged to be an array and used as a luminous device of an image display apparatus.

55. (Twice Amended) The luminous element of claim 50 or 51, wherein the luminous element is an electro-luminescent element.

56. (Twice Amended) The luminous element of claim 50 or 51, wherein the luminous element is a light emitting diode element.

59. (Amended) The image display apparatus of claim 1, 3, 66, 68, or 69, wherein the optical switch is a digital micro-mirror device composed of arrayed plural mirrors.

60. (Amended) The image display apparatus of claim 1, 3, 66, 67, 68, or 69, wherein the luminous device is composed of plural light sources arrayed on a curved surface.

New claims 64-69 have been added.